

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 29, 2004. In view of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

By the above amendment, the rejected claims have been cancelled.

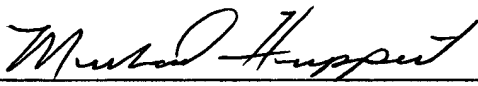
In the previous Office Action, claims 13-22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 13 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form, and thus these claims are clearly allowable. Claims 14-16 and 18-22 depend, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, and thus are similarly allowable.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to enter the above amendment, and pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Hiroo ARIKAWA et al.

By:   
Michael S. Huppert  
Registration No. 40,268  
Attorney for Applicants

MSH/kjf  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
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